

I ran to rescue the hawk as I feared she would be injured physically as well as morally, if abandoned to the tender mercies of the Seven Sisters.

On my approach all the Babblers retired from the fray except two, one in the grip of the hawk and the other one of the hawk's assailants, possibly the mate of the bird which had been seized. I actually had to remove this bird which had gripped the hawk firmly with both feet! It was clear from this experiment that it is mutual co-operation among the Seven Sisters which renders them more or less immune from the attacks of hawks.

On another occasion I was out with my shikra when I noticed a Kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*) about 5 yards away seated on a dead branch, contemplating a slow flowing stream below.

I threw the hawk at the Kingfisher and the latter darted off up stream at its best pace. The Shikra followed and was steadily overhauling the former and in fact was about to seize it when the Kingfisher made a sudden plunge into the water. The disappearance of the Kingfisher was so sudden and unexpected that the hawk over-flew the spot and the Kingfisher emerging the next moment from the water, sped back down stream and got such a good start that the hawk gave up the pursuit. It struck me as particularly interesting that a bird should seek to avoid capture by diving into water, an act one would have thought only associated in its mind with the capture of fish!

GULMARG, KASHMIR,
29th August 1922.

B. B. OSMASTON, I.F.S.

No. XIV.—THE NIDIFICATION OF THE MALABAR GREAT BLACK
WOODPECKER (*THRIPONAX HODGSONI*).

As I do not believe that the finding of the eggs of this fine woodpecker has hitherto been recorded the following may prove of some slight interest:—

The nest hole is excavated in a dead tree trunk, between thirty and fifty feet from the ground. The entrance is large and conspicuous being about 6 inches in diameter, and the hole extends down to a depth of about two feet. During excavation the ground for some yards around the base of the tree becomes littered with fragments of wood. The birds are extremely shy and impatient of observation. If they think that an undue interest is being taken in their movements, they will promptly desert their nesting site, their eggs, and even their young.

They lay two glossy white eggs, measuring about 1·40"—1·05" towards the end of January.

Nelliampathy Hills,
21st February 1923.

A. P. KINLOCH, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

No. XV.—NOTE ON THE BREEDING SEASON OF THE PAINTED
STORK (*PSEUDOANTALUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*).

As the Fauna of British India, Vol. IV, says the Painted Stork (*P. leucocephalus*) breeds in N. India in September and October, it may be of interest to record that I took a fresh egg of this species on one of the big lakes in the Bhawalpur State on X'mas Day, 1922.

A number of these picturesque birds were sitting about on the Tamarisk trees round the jhil and there were nests in places. I did not expect that there would be any eggs in December, but I thought it worth while to enquire of the boatmen, who exploit the water birds, e.g., the White Egrets, pretty thoroughly, in search